

STAT

TR's Grandson Kermit Finds Africa Changed

Another Roosevelt has just returned from Africa.

This one is Kermit Roosevelt, 44, of 6940 Fordham road N.W., grandson of Theodore Roosevelt and a vice president of the Gulf Oil Corp.

Like his grandfather, Mr. Roosevelt will write a book on his travels into the bush and accent the need for conservation. He traveled over portions of the route taken by his ancestor, who included in his safari 500 porters, each of whom carried 60 pounds. Theodore's 12-month trip was made in 1910 and was followed by the book, "African Game Trails."

Elusive Bongo Hunted

Kermit, however, mixing business with hunting, stayed only about two months, using "the English version" of the jeep and a safari of about 25 persons, including his two sons, Kermit, Jr., 22, and Jonathan, 20.

Jonathan, Mr. Roosevelt said yesterday, stayed on, hopeful of having a go at the Bongo, an elusive, large forest antelope. He recently wired his father: "No Bongo."

But several trophies were taken, including a leopard.

Mild of Manner

Mr. Roosevelt, whose trip was confined to East Africa, said his grandfather's book was accurate. He was impressed with his grandfather's gift for description, although he said the land has changed greatly. The forests are disappearing. Some of the game described by TR is now "largely extinct," including both the Larger and Lesser Kudu. Particularly



KERMIT ROOSEVELT

—Star Staff Photo

scarce, according to Mr. Roosevelt, are lions and rhinos.

The present-day explorer, an extremely mild man, who is able to drawl in a cultured accent, bears no resemblance to Teddy and apparently looks at things differently.

Mr. Roosevelt, in his office at 1120 Connecticut avenue N.W., showed little of the excitement his grandfather was famous for even as he described the charge of a rhino.

"While fairly vigorous and aggressive," Mr. Roosevelt said slowly, "his charge, I feel, was largely an exploratory venture. Someone shouted at him and he turned away."

Mr. Roosevelt hopes to write an article on the trip for a magazine, then try a book. "Perhaps," he says, "something like 'African Game Trails Revisited'."